

Northern California CO2 Reduction Project
Media Coverage Report 2010

Outlet Type	Outlet Name	Date Published	Hyperlink
Community Print Newspaper	<i>Rio Vista River-News Herald</i>	February 2, 2010	Click here to view story in document
Community Print Newspaper	<i>Fairfield Daily Republic</i>	March 25, 2010	Click here to view story in document.
Community Print Newspaper	<i>Martinez News-Gazette</i>	March 28, 2010	Story online: http://www.martinezgazette.com/news/story/i745/2010/03/28/shell-promotes-co2-injection-near-delta
Community Print Newspaper	<i>Rio Vista River-News Herald</i>	March 28, 2010	Story online: http://www.martinezgazette.com/news/story/i745/2010/03/28/shell-promotes-co2-injection-near-delta
Community Print Newspaper	<i>Benicia Herald</i>	March 31, 2010	Click here to view story in document.
Community Print Newspaper	<i>Rio Vista River-News Herald</i>	April 7, 2010	Click here to view in document.
Community News Website	Rio Vista Advocates	May 14, 2010	Click here to view in document.

Piping plant food underground

By Jesse Lanum, RIO VISTA NEWS-HERALD

February 2, 2010

Piping Plant Food Underground

JESSE LANUM
Staff Writer

The West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (WESTCARB) held an informational open house at D.H. White Elementary on Thursday. WESTCARB and Shell put together six information tables

to help explain their plan for capturing carbon dioxide and storing it more than two miles below ground surface in the Montezuma Hills.

The CO₂ would be trucked into the Montezuma Hills, ten miles outside of Rio Vista. Adam Gottlieb, the Manager of Media Communication for the California

Energy Commission, said that they plan on trucking in 6,000 tons of CO₂. "It's a very minute amount," said Gottlieb.

To put it in perspective, the Weyburn-Midale CO₂ Project in Canada will be home to 20 million tons of stored CO₂. "It's being done all over," said Gottlieb. "There are sites in Canada, Norway and Algeria."

According to Gottlieb, the technology has been around for 30 years. The CO₂ is piped down into the layers of sandstone and shale. The Montezuma Hills site was chosen after much deliberation.

"This site is perfectly ideal for testing carbon storage. The geologic strata are perfect. This meeting was a chance for us to explain the technology," said Gottlieb.

Rio Vista Vice-Mayor Ron Jones felt that the explanation was inadequate. "I wasn't satisfied with the way they presented the information. There was no real presentation or question and answer period," said Jones.

Jones appreciated that the group is reaching out to explain the process, but said that the information was "very one-sided."

There are still a number of logistics to be worked out, before the carbon dioxide can

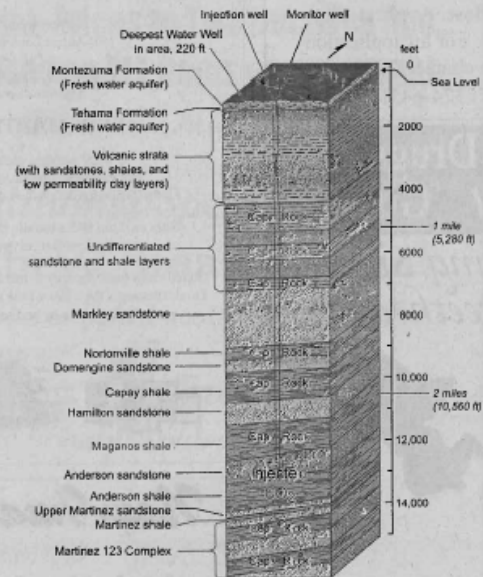


Photo Courtesy of westcarb.org

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CARB

From Front Page

be stored. They have already been working with landowner Rick Russell for the site. "Rick is an eco-pioneer," said Gottlieb. Russell has also allotted portions of his land for wind turbines.

After WESTCARB secures a permit with the county for the project, the next step will be to hold more public hearings. "There are a lot of steps," said Gottlieb. "Consider this the introduction."

According to Gottlieb, C6 Resources, an affiliate of Shell Oil Company, will be responsible for the construction, operation, and other on-site aspects of carbon dioxide storage.

"Shell was recently awarded approximately \$3 million from the U.S. Department of Energy under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 to investigate the feasibility of a large-scale project," Gottlieb wrote.

"Should the project confirm that CO₂ underground storage in this area is viable, a second project to store larger volumes of CO₂ may be implemented based on a number of factors, including the economic feasibility of a project to capture, transport, and store up to one million tons of CO₂," according to Gottlieb.

The carbon capture project is based on the theory that carbon dioxide affects the climate and has led to global warming. "It's proven that CO₂ is a green house gas," Gottlieb said. [President] Obama and [Governor] Schwarzenegger have tried to mitigate green house gases."

"Roughly one third of the

United States' carbon emissions comes from power plants and other large point sources," according to fossil.energy.gov.

WESTCARB is one of seven national partnerships to embrace the technology, according to Gottlieb. WESTCARB was founded in 2003.

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Plan for injection wells debated in Rio Vista

By Barry Eberling, FAIRFIELD DAILY REPUBLIC
March 25, 2010

RIO VISTA - Proponents of a proposal to get rid of a greenhouse gas by injecting it deep under the Montezuma Hills are trying to sell the idea not only to various governmental agencies, but also to Main Street.

They faced questions during a lively discussion Thursday morning at a Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce event in the Striper restaurant, which is on Main Street. About 17 people attended and they wanted to know what project might mean for their eastern Solano County city along the Sacramento River.

The initial proposal by the Shell and the West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership is for a pilot project to see if the Montezuma Hills is a good site. An injection well would be located on ranchland seven miles southwest of Rio Vista.

About 6,000 tons of carbon dioxide would be brought by truck to the location over a two-month period, perhaps starting next winter. It would be injected two miles underground, where it would be stored permanently.

Should the pilot project work out, Shell could someday pipe carbon dioxide produced at its Martinez refinery under the Sacramento River to the Montezuma Hills. The carbon dioxide, by being injected underground, would stay out of the atmosphere and helped industries meet California laws designed to combat climate change.

'Do we know how to do it safely?' said geophysicist John Henry Beyer of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. 'Absolutely. There's nothing new about it at all.'

Naturally occurring carbon dioxide has been injected into oil fields in Texas and New Mexico since 1972, Beyer said. The purpose there isn't to keep man-made carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, but rather to help get more oil out of the wells.

Resident Fred Kogler asked how big of an injection operation would be set up in the Montezuma Hills if the pilot project succeeds.

'What is the scale of the real project, not the one tomorrow, but 20 years from now?' Kogler said.

Project proponents couldn't answer that. They are trying to get the pilot project approved by Solano County and the Environmental Protection Agency. Barbara Kornlyo of Shell said that if a bigger project is possible, more permits would have to first be granted.

Proponents set one limit on a possible bigger project.

'It's not going to come anywhere near Rio Vista,' Beyer said. 'It's not going to go under your house.'

Resident Dick Brann had a different type of question. Proponents talked about the benefits for Contra Costa County industries. What, Brann asked, are the benefits for Rio Vista and the Montezuma Hills?

Stephen Leshner of Shell said that in Martinez, the company is involved with schools to let students know about energy sector careers.

'Everywhere we do business, we want to be a valued member of the community,' he said.

The pilot project would involve 300 trucks going to the site, perhaps 10 a day for a month, Beyer said. Possible routes on a map showed the trucks taking Midway Road to Highway 113 through rural Solano County or Highway 12 through Fairfield and Suisun City to reach the Montezuma Hills.

A resident asked what would happen if a truck got involved in an accident. Beyer said that carbon dioxide is safer to transport than propane. It doesn't explode and it doesn't burn.

Another resident wanted to know what would happen if carbon dioxide got into groundwater. Both Rio Vista and rural residents depend on well water.

Beyer made no mention of the carbon dioxide itself hurting people -- it's in carbonated beverages-- but said it is acidic and could add unwanted minerals to groundwater. He also said there are massive layers of shale that would keep the carbon dioxide far below the ground and below the wells.

Project proponents have already held several meeting in Rio Vista and plan still more, at such venues as the Rotary Club and the Trilogy community.

Reach Barry Eberling at 425-4646, ext. 232, or beberling@dailyrepublic.net.

Shell pushes CO₂ injection plan

By Jesse Lanum, BENICIA HERALD

March 31, 2010

★ SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER DELTA ★

Shell pushes CO₂ injection plan

CO₂ is separated from natural gas

Gas from reservoir fed to plant



CO₂ is compressed and injected 2.5 km underground into Dupuy Formation

Courtesy: Ingersoll

BY JESSE LANUM
Martinez News-Gazette

“We drill well, really well. We do that all over the world,” Shell spokesman Steve Lesh said Thursday at a Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event at the Stripper Café.

Lesh came with a team to reassure Rio Vista residents that Shell’s proposed plan to inject 6,000 tons of carbon dioxide more than 2 miles underground in the Montezuma Hills

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SHELL

[Continued from Page A1]

would be harmless. Shell is working with the West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (WESTCARB) and a \$3 million grant to explore carbon injection.

Lesh was accompanied by Shell geologist Dr. John Beyer, who sought to quell any nerves over the fine points of the science behind the experiment. Beyer assured anxious attendees that CO₂

injection has been going on for more than 30 years. “We know how to do this and do it safely,” he said.

Not everyone in the audience was convinced. Resident Fred Kogler wanted to know about Shell’s long-term plans for pumping, given that some CO₂ injection sites pump up to 1 million tons into the ground every year.

Lesh said the trial is only the first leg of the project, but could not say how much CO₂ the company plans to pump. Once Shell gets the

data it needs, it hopes to pump excess CO₂ from its Martinez plant to cut CO₂ emissions in accordance with state Assembly Bill 32.

“If we wanted to inject more, we would have to get permits,” said Barbara Kocnylo, a manager from Shell Exploration and Production.

If the plan goes ahead, 300 trucks — the amount necessary to fit 6,000 tons of CO₂ — would carry the carbon dioxide into the Montezuma Hills just outside Rio Vista.

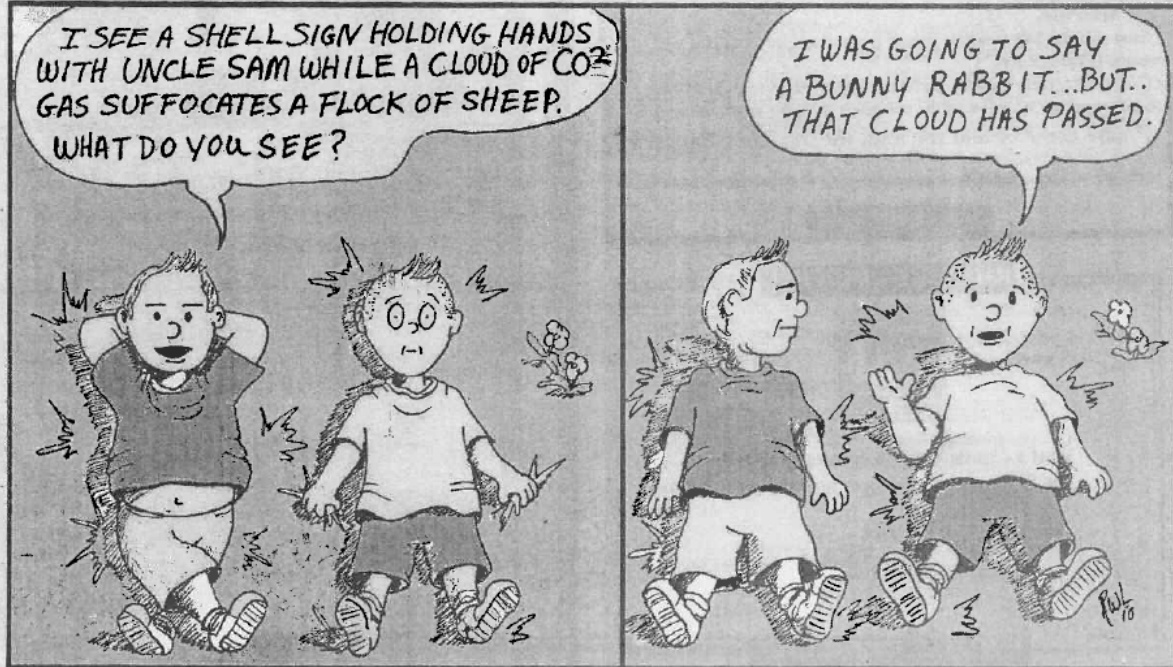
Rio Life (cartoon)

RIO VISTA NEWS-HERALD

April 7, 2010

RIO LIFE

by RWL



We don't think we're smelling just carbon dioxide here

By Hale Conklin, Rio Vista Advocates
May 14, 2010

We're not sure when the next "Carbon Reduction" presentation by WESTCARB will take place... or whether that consortium will be more willing and able to answer some questions that have been raised to date.

This project passes under several names, none of which truly represents what's really planned. The act of

extracting carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, liquifying it, and burying it in the ground may mean that the CO2 in our air goes down (reduction) but it certainly doesn't entail any "reduction" of carbon or CO2 in our environment. On the other hand, "sequestration" isn't a bad word, but it's anyone's guess how long the buried CO2 will remain sequestered.

With respect to the proposed Montezuma Hills project, we are repeatedly assured that this is just a test project, a mini-program involving a token 6000 tons of CO2 (which are actually going to be manufactured for this project). The WESTCARB consortium wants to do this to see if this area is "suitable". For what, you ask? For a real big, long-term sequestration program, probably involving *millions* of tons of CO2. How many millions? Of course, WESTCARB has the answer. They'd have to in order for them to have determined that the economics of doing this pilot program were attractive. But they aren't talking.

The WESTCARB people are probably very, very sophisticated people. One wonders why they are sending the folk they are and the level of presentation they have to soften us up. Perhaps they don't give us much credit out here in rural Solano County.

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